

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for regulating e-mail, comprising:
- receiving an e-mail;
- identifying a source of the e-mail;
- updating aggregate e-mail statistics maintained
- for the source to reflect receipt of the e-mail;
- 10 comparing the aggregate e-mail statistics to
- target e-mail statistics; and
- if the aggregate e-mail statistics are not
- acceptable in comparison to the target e-mail statistics,
- taking a remedial action.
- 15
2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a
- source of the e-mail comprises identifying the domain
- name from which the e-mail was received.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein updating
- aggregate e-mail statistics maintained for the source to
- reflect receipt of the e-mail comprises updating a
- counter of the number of e-mails received from the

source.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein comparing the aggregate e-mail statistics to target e-mail statistics
5 comprises comparing the counter of the number of e-mails received from the source to a benchmark value for the counter.

10 5. The method of claim 1, wherein taking remedial action comprises sending an e-mail to at least one of the postmaster and administrator at the source.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein taking remedial action comprises returning the e-mail to the source.

15 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying for the source, a corresponding source group having target e-mail statistics.

20 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying a profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics for e-mails received from the source;
comparing the e-mail to the profile of

acceptable e-mail characteristics;

if the e-mail is not acceptable in comparison
to the acceptable e-mail characteristics, notifying at
least one of the postmaster and administrators at the
source.

9. A computer readable medium having stored
thereon instructions for performing the method as recited
in claim 1.

10. A method for regulating e-mail, comprising:
receiving an e-mail;
identifying a source of the e-mail;
updating aggregate e-mail statistics maintained
for the source to reflect receipt of the e-mail;
identifying for the source, a corresponding
source group having target e-mail statistics;
comparing the aggregate e-mail statistics with
the source group target e-mail statistics; and
if the aggregate e-mail statistics do not fall
within the source group target e-mail statistics,
notifying at least one of the postmaster and
administrator at the source.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein updating aggregate e-mail statistics comprises updating a statistic tracking e-mail volume received from the source
5 to reflect receipt of the e-mail,

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
identifying a profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics for e-mails received from the source;
10 comparing the e-mail to the profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics;
if the e-mail is not acceptable in comparison to the acceptable e-mail characteristics, notifying administrators at the source.

13. A method for regulating e-mails, comprising:
maintaining statistics regarding e-mails that are received;
comparing the statistics regarding e-mails that
20 are received to benchmark values; and
if the statistics regarding e-mails do not comply with the benchmark values, taking remedial action.

14. A method for regulating electronic messages,
comprising:

receiving an electronic message;

identifying a source of the electronic message;

5 updating aggregate electronic message

statistics maintained for the source to reflect receipt
of the electronic message;

comparing the aggregate electronic message
statistics to target electronic message statistics; and

10 if the aggregate electronic message statistics
are not acceptable in comparison to the target electronic
message statistics, taking a remedial action.

15 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the electronic
message is an e-mail.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the electronic
message is an instant message.